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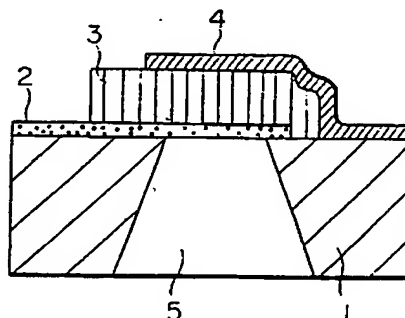
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Ferroelectric film device and process for producing the same.

For applying ferroelectrics to electronic devices, the poling treatment of the ferroelectrics has been necessary in order to uniform directions of spontaneous polarizations, P_s , in each ferroelectric. This treatment brings about (1) low yields of the devices, (2) difficulties in the fabrication of array devices, and (3) difficulties in the formation of ferroelectric films on semiconductor devices.

Now it has been found that a self-polarized film in which spontaneous polarizations, P_s , are unidirectional can be formed by sputtering a ferroelectric materials containing lead under such conditions that the orientation of P_s will be controlled without poling treatment and a high-performance ferroelectric device can be obtained in a high yield by using this film, and thus a process for producing such devices has been found.

FIG. 1



FERROELECTRIC FILM DEVICE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a device comprising a ferroelectric substance, particularly a ferroelectric film. By using devices of this type, the production of high-resolutional arrayed ferroelectric devices can be realized. The present inventive devices, fitted for use as, for example, IR detecting device, piezoelectric devices, and optoelectric devices, can be applied extensively in the field of electronics.

BACKGROUND ART

In the electronic field, ferroelectrics are applied to a various of devices including IR detecting devices, piezoelectric devices, optical modulators, optical memories, etc. In recent years, ferroelectric devices in film form have been increasing with increasing demands for miniaturized electronic components due to the progress of semiconductor technology.

In the case of ferroelectric devices such as pyroelectric IR detecting devices and piezoelectric devices, from which changes in the spontaneous polarizations, P_s , of ferroelectrics are taken out as output, a largest of the output can be obtained when the P_s 's each ferroelectric materials are unidirectional. However, ferroelectric porcelains used today in IR detecting devices, piezoelectric devices, and the like are polycrystalline materials, in which the crystals are oriented in various directions, and hence the individual spontaneous polarizations, P_s , of each crystals are oriented at random. In each of epitaxial ferroelectric films and oriented ferroelectric films, the polarization axes of crystals are uniform in direction but electrical spontaneous polarizations, P_s , form 180° domains that are oriented alternately in opposite directions. Therefore, when these materials are used in such electronic devices as mentioned above, the poling treatment of applying a high electric field ($\sim 100\text{KV/cm}$) to each material is necessary in order to uniform the directions of spontaneous polarizations, P_s .

This poling treatment method raises the following problems:

- (1) The poling treatment may cause the dielectric breakdown of materials treated, hence lowering the yield.
- (2) It is difficult to pole uniformly a great number of fine ferroelectric elements arranged in a high density as in high-resolution array devices.
- (3) The poling treatment itself is impossible in certain cases of integrated devices comprising ferroelectric films formed on semiconductor devices.

There are a number of reports on the formation of films of PbTiO_3 , PLZT, and the like. With respect to these films, however, none of these reports reveal the process for producing a film in which c-axes that are polarization axes are oriented unidirectionally. Moreover, the process for producing a material in which also spontaneous polarizations are oriented unidirectionally is not clarified at all.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

Objects of the invention are to provide a ferroelectric film device from which output can be taken out even when the poling treatment of the film has not been conducted and to provide a process for producing such devices in high yields.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a ferroelectric film device prepared in an example of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a graph showing an X-ray diffraction pattern of a ferroelectric film prepared in an example of the invention. Fig. 3 is a graph showing the dependence of the pyroelectric coefficient of PbTiO_3 on the degree of c-axis orientation. Fig. 4 is a graph showing relations among the input RF-power density the speed of film formation, and the degree of c-axis orientation. Fig. 5 is a graph showing the dependence of the x-axis orientation degree on the pressure of sputtering atmospheric gas. Fig. 6 is a graph showing the dependence of the c-axis orientation degree on the concentration of argon in a sputtering atmospheric gas. Fig. 7 is a graph showing the dependence of the c-axis orientation degree on the substrate temperature. Fig. 8 is a graph showing the dependence of the c-axis orientation degree on the number of target uses repeated. Fig. 9 is a graph showing the dependencies of the c-axis orientation degree and the X-ray diffraction intensity of (001)-reflection on the voltage applied to a substrate.

In Fig. 1;

1 — Substrate, 2 — Lower electrode, 3 — Ferroelectric film, 4 — Upper electrode, 5 — Opening.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The ferroelectric films used in the present invention have a composition which is represented by the chemical formula $(\text{Pb}_x\text{La}_y)(\text{Ti}_z\text{Zr}_w)\text{O}_3$ and lies in a range selected from

(a) $0.70 \leq x \leq 1$, $0.9 \leq x + y \leq 1$, $0.95 \leq z \leq 1$, $w = 0$,

(b) $x = 1$, $y = 0$, $0.45 \leq z < 1$, $z + w = 1$, and

(c) $0.83 \leq x < 1$, $x + y = 1$, $0.5 \leq z < 1$, $0.96 \leq z' = w \leq 1$.

This film is formed by sputtering and at least 75% of the polarization axes in the film are oriented unidirectionally.

The present invention is based on finding; that a self-polarized film having spontaneous polarizations, P_s , oriented in one direction without poling treatment can be formed from a ferroelectric compound containing Pb by controlling the orientation of polarization axes and a high-performance ferroelectric device can be obtained in a high yield by using the film, and; a process for producing such devices.

Referring now to the drawings, embodiments of the invention are described.

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an example of the ferroelectric film devices which were made according to the invention.

Using a (100)-cleaved and mirror-finished single crystal of MgO as a substrate 1, a $0.4\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ thick Pt film was formed as a lower electrode 2 thereon by sputtering in an Ar- O_2 atmosphere. On electrode 2 a $4\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ thick ferroelectric film 3 was then grown by the RF magnetron sputtering method using a powder mixture of



as a sputtering target in an Ar- O_2 atmosphere. Then, an upper Ni-Cr electrode 4 was formed on film 3 by vapor deposition and further an opening 5 in substrate 1 was formed by chemical etching thus making up a ferroelectric film device.

Fig. 2 shows a typical X-ray diffraction pattern of the ferroelectric film. In the pattern there observed only peaks of (001) and (100) reflections the perovskite structure and the higher-order reflections of these. In addition, the intensity of the (001)-reflection is remarkably stronger than that of the (100)-reflection. Hence this film proves to be of a c-axis orientation type, that is, the c-axes in this film are substantially oriented. The c-axis orientation degree, α , is defined by the equation

$$\alpha = I(001) / (I(001) + I(100))$$

where $I(001)$ and $I(100)$ are the respective intensities of X-rays reflected from the planes (001) and (100).

The permittivity and pyroelectric coefficient of the film were measured. Fig. 3 shows the dependence of the pyroelectric coefficient of PbTiO_3 on the α . As is well known, the pyroelectric coefficient of ferroelectrics increases in proportion to the orientation of spontaneous polarizations, P_s . In Fig. 3, pyroelectric coefficient increases with an increases in the degree of orientation. Fig. 3 also shows pyroelectric coefficients of the films subjected to poling treatment (an electric field of 100KV/cm was applied for 10 minutes at 200°C). When the orientation degree is low, PbTiO_3 not subjected to poling treatment shows also a certain pyroelectric coefficients but these values are low. When the α reaches 75%, the pyroelectric coefficient becomes $1.6 \times 10^{-8}\text{c/cm}^2\text{K}$. This value is nearly equal to that ($\gamma = 1.8 \times 10^{-8}\text{c/cm}^2\text{K}$) of a PbTiO_3 ceramic subjected to the poling treatment of applying an electric field of 100KV/cm at 200°C . At an α of 80%, the pyroelectric coefficient is $2.5 \times 10^{-8}\text{c/cm}^2\text{K}$, which is fairly higher than that of the PbTiO_3 ceramic and nearly equal to the value measured after poling treatment. When La was added to PbTiO_3 (the product is designated as PLT), similar results were obtained. As stated above, it has been revealed that in the case of PbTiO_3 films as well as PLT films, their spontaneous polarizations can be oriented in one direction when that their c-axes are sufficiently oriented during film formation, and especially the c-axis orientation has great effect on these films when α in the films is 75% or higher. As the content of La in PLT is increased, the α decreases gradually. A PLT film of such a high La content that x in composition formula (1) is less than 0.2 showed an α less than 70%.

On the other hand, the degree of c-axis orientation in a ferroelectric film depends on conditions of the sputtering. Fig. 4 shows relations among the α , the RF input power, and the speed of film formation. As is evident from Fig. 4, the α decreases greatly with an increase in the speed of film formation. When the speed of film formation exceeds $30\text{\AA}/\text{min}$, the α drops to a mean value of about 60%. Fig. 5 shows the

dependence of the α on the pressure of sputtering atmospheric gas. Films obtained under sputtering atmospheric pressures of 1Pa and 2Pa showed the α of 90% and more. However, when the pressure is raised to 5Pa or more, the α drops to 60%. Fig. 6 shows the dependence of the α on the proportion of argon in the argon-oxygen sputtering atmospheric gas. It can be seen from Fig. 6 that the α decreases as the proportion of oxygen is increased. When the proportion of oxygen is increased to 30% or more, the orientation degree becomes very low. Fig. 7 shows the dependence of the α in the film on the substrate temperature. The α shows a maximum at a substrate temperature of 550 to 600°C. Too high substrate temperatures induce the formation of PbTi_2O_7 . Substrate temperatures lower than 550°C result in the contamination of the intended film with crystals having a pyrochlore type of crystal structure. When one sputtering target is used consecutively, (111)-orientation comes to occur instead of c-axis orientation. Fig. 8 shows the dependence of the intensity of (111)-reflection on the number of repeated uses of one target. As is apparent from Fig. 8, consecutive uses of one target 4 to 5 times result in (111)-orientation. Therefore, it is necessary to stir the target powder before each sputtering operation, in order to refresh the surface of the target. The data shown in Figs. 4 through 8 are results of experiments wherein the target powder was stirred before each sputtering operation. The above shift of orientation direction is caused conceivably by Pb deficiency occurring at the target surface. This is because Pb is sputtered preferentially from the target surface as revealed by the results (shown in Table 1) of forming amorphous films by using targets different in composition without heating substrates and then analyzing Pb/Ti ratios in the resulting films. Accordingly, good results were brought about by the previous incorporation of excess PbO into targets. However, the incorporation of too excess PbO caused the deposition of PbO crystals on the substrate. Good results here obtained when Y of composition formula (1) is in the range of 0.05 to 0.30.

Table 1

Composition of target	Pb/Ti ratio in target	Pb/Ti ratio in film
PbTiO_3	1.00	1.84
$0.8\text{PbTiO}_3 + 0.2\text{PbO}$	1.23	2.60
$0.7\text{PbTiO}_3 + 0.3\text{PbO}$	1.40	2.61

Further, it has been revealed that a film having a high degree of c-axis orientation can be obtained even at a high speed of film formation by sputtering while maintaining the substrate at a positive potential in relation to the wall of the sputtering chamber. As shown in Fig. 4, for instance, none of films but those having degrees of c-axis orientation as low as 70% and less are obtained under the condition that the substrate is earthed and the speed of film formation is 30A/min. Therefore, films were formed each with a voltage being applied to the substrate while earthing the sputtering chamber. The dependence of the α on the applied voltage is shown in Fig. 9, which clarifies that the c-axis orientation degree rises with an increase in the applied voltage. In addition, it can be seen from the increase in the intensity of (001)-diffracted X-rays that the crystallinity is also improved.

It is considered that when the substrate is earthed, Ar ions and the like in the plasma collide with the substrate, thereby disturbing the growth of a film good in crystallinity. Therefore a positive potential is given to the substrate to prevent the ion bombardment, whereby a film having good crystallinity is grown and the degree of c-axis orientation is improved.

Summarizing the foregoing description, suitable sputtering conditions for producing PbTiO_3 and PLT films having high degrees of c-axis orientation are as follows: the speed of film formation: up to 30A/min, the atmospheric gas pressure: up to 3 Pa, the proportion of argon in the argon-oxygen atmospheric gas: at least 80%, and the substrate temperature: from 550 to 625°C. In order to form constantly films having high degrees of c-axis orientation, it is necessary to incorporate PbO in an excess of 5 to 30 mole % into the target and refresh the target surface before each sputtering operation. It may be noted that when lower electrodes were formed of Au, much the same results were obtained and films superior in c-axis orientation

were produced by applying positive voltage to substrates.

Ferroelectric film devices prepared as infrared sensors in these examples were measured for performance characteristic. None of these ferroelectric films were subjected to poling treatment. Results of the measurement are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Composition of ferroelectric film $\text{Pb}_x\text{La}_y\text{Ti}_z\text{Zr}_w\text{O}_3$				Detecting power D^* ($\times 10^8 \text{ cm} \cdot \text{Hz}^{1/2} \cdot \text{W}^{-1}$)	α
x	y	z	w		
1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	3.0	0.88
0.90	0.10	0.98	0.0	2.8	0.79
0.85	0.15	0.93	0.0	2.9	0.91
0.75	0.25	0.94	0.0	2.9	0.84
0.70	0.30	0.93	0.0	2.8	0.79
0.68	0.32	0.92	0.0	2.1	0.71
1.0	0.0	0.95	0.05	3.1	0.93
1.0	0.0	0.70	0.30	3.3	0.93
1.0	0.0	0.45	0.55	2.9	0.82
1.0	0.0	0.40	0.60	1.9	0.63
0.95	0.05	0.80	0.19	2.8	0.86
0.80	0.20	0.50	0.45	2.9	0.81
PbTiO ₃ ceramic (without poling treatment)				0.0	0.32
PbTiO ₃ ceramic (subjected to poling treatment)				2.0	0.46

For comparison, Table 2 also shows data on two PbTiO₃ ceramics, one being not subjected to poling treatment and the other being subjected to the poling treatment of applying an electric field of 100Kv/cm for 10 minutes at 200°C. As can be seen from Table 2, the PbTiO₃ ceramic not subjected to poling treatment gave no output while the sensors prepared according to the present invention without poling treatment exhibited excellent performance.

Thus, large output can be taken from the present inventive device comprising the above described ferroelectric film which has not been subjected to poling treatment. This is true when the present films are

produced not only for infrared sensors but also for other optoelectric devices such as piezoelectric devices and optical switches.

The ferroelectric film device of the present invention does not require poling treatment, has superior characteristics, and is easy to produce, hence being very effective for practical use.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION

According to the present invention, it is possible to form ferroelectric films of the composition $\text{Pb}_x\text{La}_y\text{Ti}_z\text{Zr}_w\text{O}_3$ without poling treatment and produce film devices in high yield by using these films. This merit is important for ferroelectric film devices to obtain high resolution array detector and is of great industrial value in the aspects of high reliability and economy.

Claims

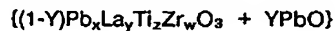
1. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device provided with a ferroelectric thin film, the film being formed by sputtering and having a high degree of orientation of polarisation axis and having a high degree of orientation of spontaneous polarisation, said film further having a composition which is represented by the chemical formula:



characterised in that the constituents of the film lie in a range selected from,

- (a) $0.70 \leq x \leq 1$, $0.9 \leq x+y < 1$, $0.95 \leq z < 1$, $w = 0$,
 - (b) $x = 1$, $y = 0$, $0.45 \leq z < 1$, $z+w = 1$, and
 - (c) $0.85 \leq x < 1$, $x+y = 1$, $0.5 \leq z < 1$, $0.96 \leq z+w \leq 1$,
- the speed of film formation is less than 30 \AA/min ($3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/min}$) and in that the substrate is maintained at a temperature of $550\text{--}650^\circ\text{C}$ during the formation of the ferroelectric film by sputtering, and in that the substrate is MgO , and further in that said unidirectional orientation of spontaneous polarisation is achieved without application of a poling treatment.

2. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device according to claim 1, wherein the target to sputter has a composition represented by the formula:



wherein Y is in the range of 0.05 to 0.30 during the formation of the ferroelectric film.

3. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device according to claim 1, wherein the pressure of sputtering atmospheric gas is lower than 5Pa during the formation of the ferroelectric film by sputtering.
4. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device according to claim 1, wherein an argon-oxygen gas mixture containing at least 80% of argon is used as the sputtering atmosphere in the formation of the ferroelectric thin film by sputtering.
5. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device according to claim 1, wherein the superficial composition of the target to sputter, before each sputtering operation, is controlled so as to become equal to the original composition of the whole target compound.
6. A process for producing a ferroelectric thin film device according to claim 1, wherein the ferroelectric thin film is formed over the substrate by sputtering while maintaining the substrate to have a positive potential.

FIG. 1

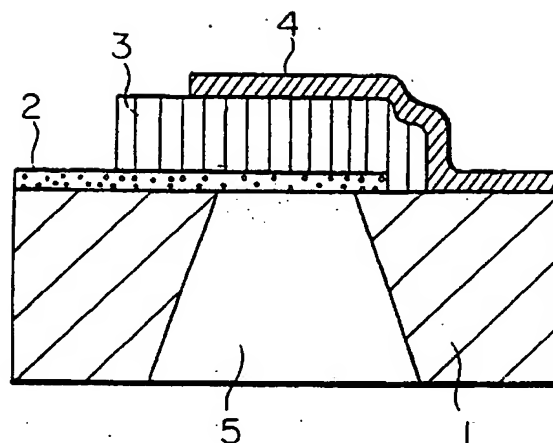


FIG. 2

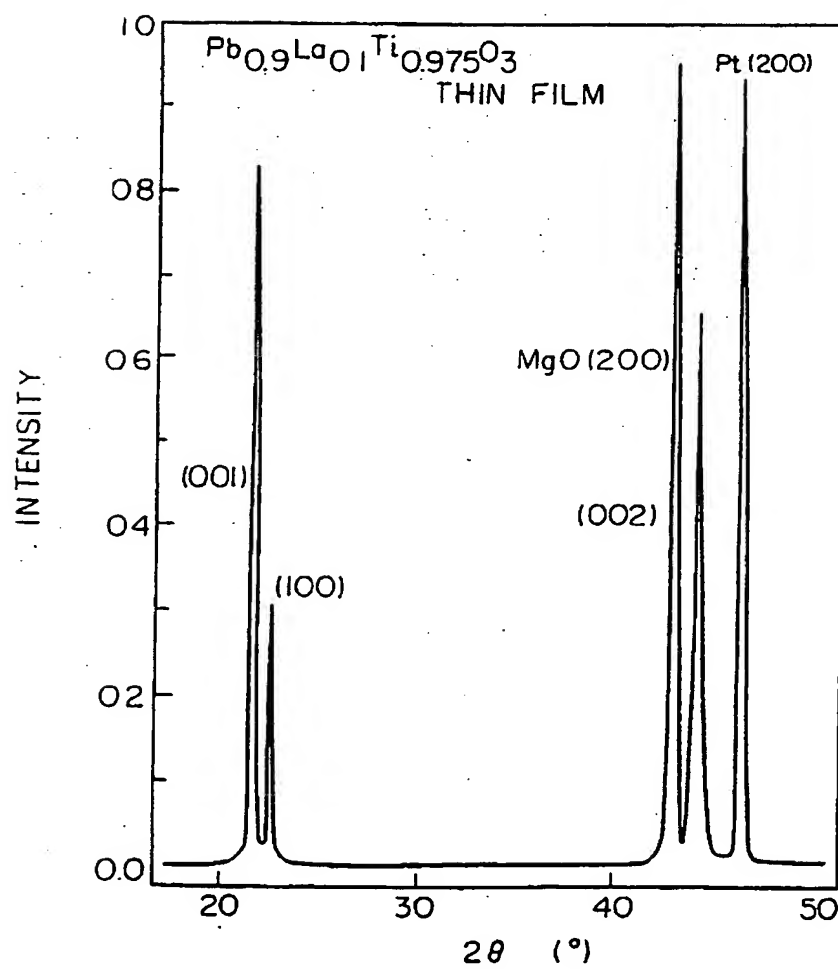


FIG. 3

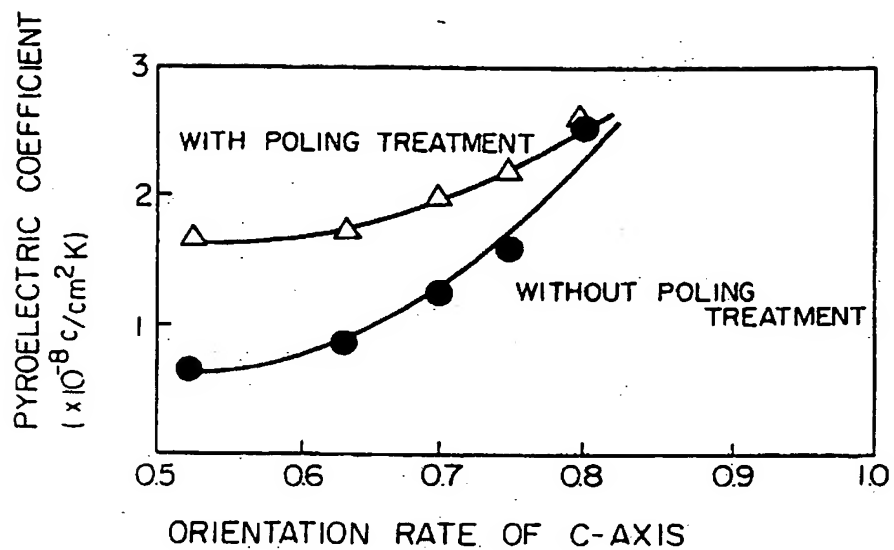


FIG. 4

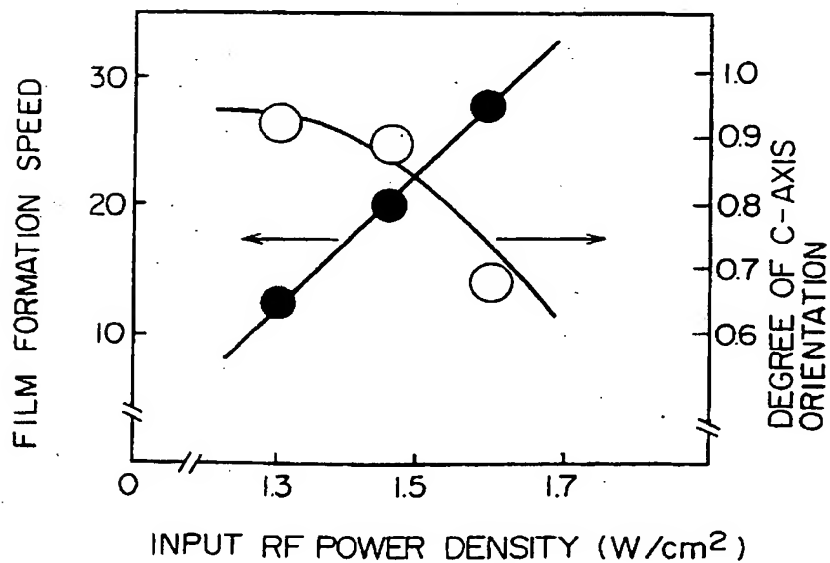


FIG. 5

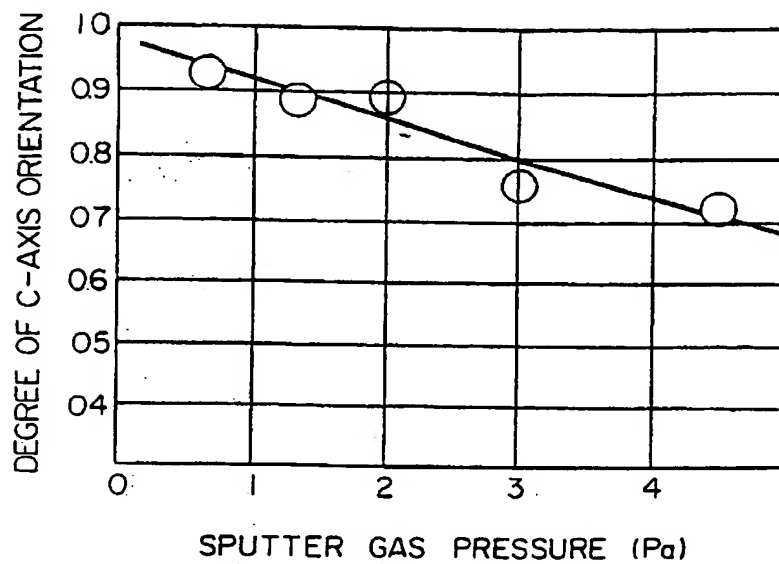


FIG. 6

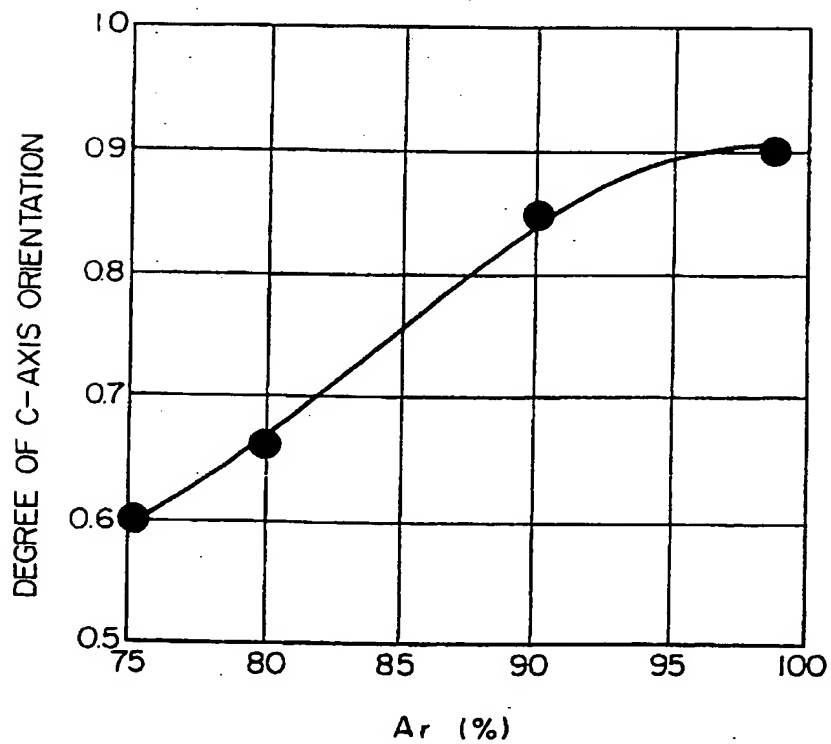


FIG. 7

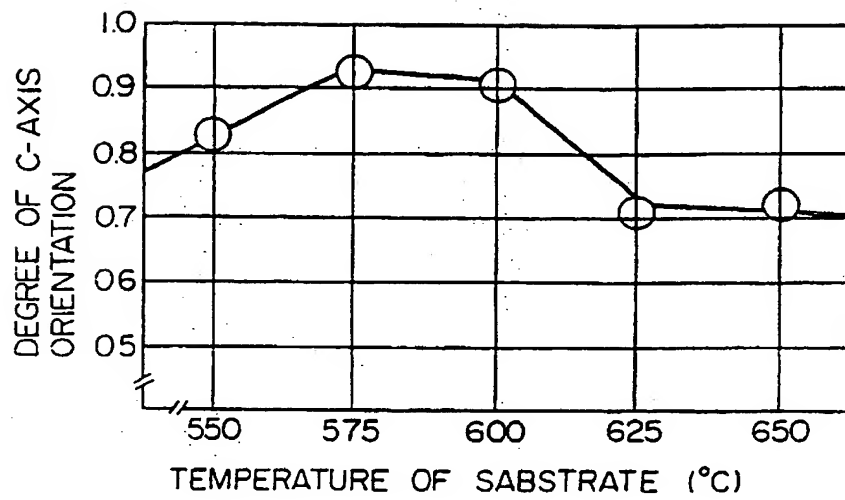


FIG. 8

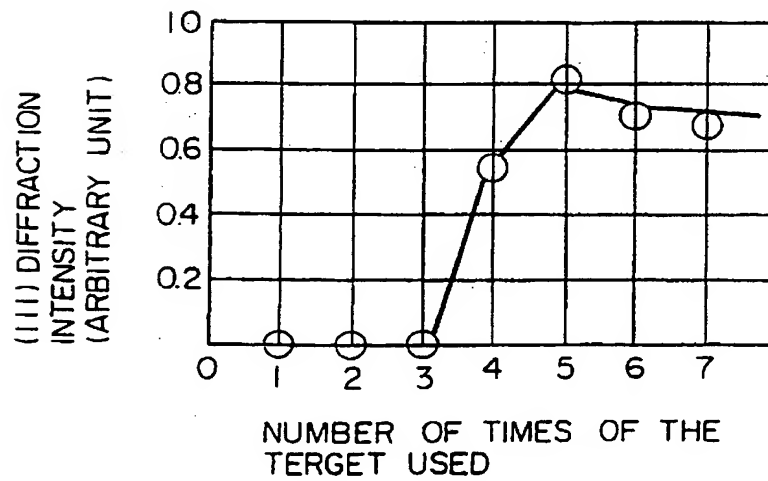


FIG. 9

